From: Peter Lowber
To: Kelley, Craig
Subject: Re: Cambridge City Council and the Israel BDS movement
Date: Monday, April 16, 2018 11:51:58 AM

OK. I have you in my calendar at 9:30 May 3rd-- at City Hall I assume-

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From: Kelley, Craig <ckelley@cambridgema.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 11:48 AM
To: Peter Lowber
Subject: RE: Cambridge City Council and the Israel BDS movement

Peter:

My first free slot is Thursday the 3rd at 9:30.

Let me know if you are interested.

Thanks.

Craig

From: Peter Lowber [mailto:plowber@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 11:38 AM
To: Kelley, Craig <ckelley@cambridgema.gov>
Subject: Re: Cambridge City Council and the Israel BDS movement

Hi Craig-

I can meet with you this Thursday at 9:30 if tat works for you- let me know-

Thanks!

Peter

From: Kelley, Craig <ckelley@cambridgema.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 11:26 AM
To: Peter Lowber
Subject: RE: Cambridge City Council and the Israel BDS movement

Hello Peter:

I have office hours Monday from 1-3 PM and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 AM in Central Square. If you are interested, drop me a note and we'll find a time that is not yet taken.

Thanks.

Craig

From: Peter Lowber [mailto:plowber@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 10:39 AM
To: Kelley, Craig <ckelley@cambridgema.gov>
Subject: Re: Cambridge City Council and the Israel BDS movement

Hi Craig-

Thanks for your response. I can understand how you feel you are put in the middle of this. I have been involved in this issue for a while. My dad escaped Nazi Europe in 1938 (he was Jewish from Czechoslovakia) and I heard stories about the death camps since I was five. My conclusion out of that horrific history is Never Again-- to anyone. Throwing Palestinians out of their homes and occupying Palestinian land is not a spiritual practice of Judaism-- which is a compassionate spiritual practice. The security of the state of Israel depends on its ability to recognize the rights of Palestinian people -- as opposed to repressing the Palestinian population. This is what this struggle is about. Boycotting US corporations benefiting from the Israeli Occupation is a non violent way of pressuring the Israeli government to change its repressive policies. The resolution to have Cambridge boycott HP products as long as the occupation by Israel of the West Bank lasts is one way Cambridge can support this campaign for justice.

What makes this situation difficult for public officials is the very strong and well coordinated campaign by the Israeli Zionist forces like AIPAC that create a very charged atmosphere. To call me and those like me anti-Semitic for taking a stand against the repressive and unjust policies of the Israeli government is an attempt to de-legitimize any attempt to have a reasonable dialogue about this very serious issue.

I hope you can appreciate the frustration many of us have with the Palestinian Israeli question. My hope is that the City Council can look at this issue with an open and clear headed approach. If the Council can do this then I think it becomes clear that HP plays a key role in providing direct support to the daily repression of the Palestinian population on the West Bank (as well as in Gaza). I have witnessed this myself-- at military check points-- during a trip

I took in 2013 with a group of 22 Unitarians.

I am happy to meet with you to talk to you directly any time.

Thanks for your consideration,

Peter Lowber
66 Martin Street, Cambridge MA 02138

From: Kelley, Craig <ckelley@cambridgema.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 9:05 AM
To: Peter Lowber
Subject: Cambridge City Council and the Israel BDS movement

Thanks for your note, Peter.

I know next to nothing about this except that I am being bombarded with emails from people who seem to know more and I found a flyer at the Kennedy School last week. I am meeting with pro and con folks next week and the week after to learn more.

Not having seen the resolution, which won't be officially posted until the Thursday before the Council meeting, I cannot say anything with surety except that I will not support an attempt to delegitimize Israel although I could be supportive of something that expresses concerns over some of Israel's policies without singling them out as the only nation in the world with problematic policies.

I also think this is a lousy way to manipulate local government. If we want to take stances on good and bad in the world, and arguably we should, it only seems fair that we do so via some agreed upon criteria that does not single out specific entities for the sake of political expedience.

But like I said, I actually have not seen anything for the Council yet so my opinion is not well informed.

Craig